

THE TALKING STICK

The Official Publication of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Tribal Leaders Convene Economic Summit to Discuss Workforce Development, Tribal Unity

SPOKANE – Earlier this summer, Eastern Washington tribal leaders spearheaded a tribal economic development summit and trade show with the theme “Washington Tribes in Action.”

The three-day conference was held June 23-25 at the Ridpath Hotel in Spokane.

Joe Pakootas, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and lead organizer of the event, said the summit was an opportunity for tribal leaders to discuss strategies for tribal unity and growth.

“As Washington tribes grow and prosper, we

are realizing new opportunities,” he said. “We are also meeting greater challenges. This summit will provide us with the platform to recognize those opportunities and challenges and develop strategies for future economic growth.”

During the conference, a state/tribal leaders’ panel was held to discuss government-to-government relations and other key issues.

Workshop tracks included financing, tourism, successful partnerships, critical gaming issues, workforce development, public relations and related governmental programs.

In addition, panel discussions were held about legislation, strategic planning, tribal unity and resources for conducting a second statewide study on the various economic contributions that tribes make to Washington’s economy.

Locke Won’t Seek Third Term

OLYMPIA — On July 21, Gov. Gary Locke announced he would not seek a third term as governor of Washington state.

Locke said he wanted to spend more time with his wife and two young children.

In a statement, he said: “It is a great honor to serve the people of Washington as governor. I am proud of our strong record of accomplishments since taking office. Serving as governor has been very rewarding, challenging and personally enriching. ... Apart from my family, it has been the greatest experience of my life. I will continue to work hard and intensify our efforts on our state’s top priorities of government for the remainder of my term, focusing especially on education, jobs, health care, competitiveness and the environment.”

INSIDE: GOIA budget and staffing update. See story Page 2.

On The Inside

Education.....4
State board adopts language program

Calendar and Training Schedule.....7
Training in Omak and Wenatchee

Economic Development.....9
The Potlatch Fund begins its work

GOIA Sustains Budget Cutbacks and Staffing Changes

By Andrea Alexander

Deputy Director

With Washington state projecting a \$2.4 billion shortfall, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) is experiencing painful budget cutbacks, like many other state offices and programs.

State lawmakers pass a budget every two years, and in the last biennium (2001-03) GOIA's staffing structure provided for four full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions. With a team of that size, our agency was able to manage a very diverse portfolio of programs to help address the complicated issues between tribes and the state of Washington.

The budget has just passed for the 2003-05 biennium and GOIA sustained an overall budget cut of nearly 12 percent. Our staffing structure was reduced from four FTE to 2.3 FTE and our office was relocated in July.

The GOIA office is now at 1210 Eastside in Olympia. We share a space with four other programs including the state's Hispanic, Asian Pacific and African American commissions.

The budget situation is very frustrating due to the heavy workload, but my primary concern is how the budget cutbacks will affect other Washington state tribal programs relating to natural resource protection, aid to children, health programs, education and the other essential programs that we depend on as tribal people in this state.

Washington state is not alone and 46 other states are experiencing severe budget deficits and the economic forecasts are not painting a bright picture for any relief soon.

As a Native person, I am familiar with budget trends and economic downturns and the direct effects that both have on low income people in our society.

It is my hope that we can do a better job of advocating for important programs in the next two years to ensure economic parity throughout our state.

Where are we in staffing? As you may know our executive director, Kimberly Craven left her position last February and an executive search was launched during the following months.

Thirty resumes were submitted in April, candidates were interviewed in May and the final

selection should be announced in the very near future.

GOIA policy analyst/communications specialist Lisa Pemberton-Butler left in January to work part-time at the Department of Labor and Industries. She recently began contracting with our office to revive The Talking Stick, and serve as a consultant.

As deputy director, I am holding down the fort and look forward to the appointment of a new director. I am grateful for the support and understanding from tribal leaders on staff cutbacks.

The Governors' staff has been engaged in "Principles of Government" process that will continue to look at what essential services our state government needs to provide.

We hope to determine the best use of scarce staff resources to ensure clear and realistic expectations for the overall role of our office.

During this process, it would be helpful to have clear mandates from both the Governor and tribal leaders on what their vision might be for our agency.

Thank you for your time and support. It is an honor to serve the tribes of this state.

Clicko'Clicko'!



The Official Publication of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

**The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
1210 Eastside**

Olympia, WA 98504-0909

Phone: 360-753-2411; Fax: 360-586-3653

www.goia.wa.gov

Andrea Alexander, Deputy Director (Makah)
email: andreaa@goia.wa.gov

Lisa Pemberton-Butler, Talking Stick Editor
(White Earth Chippewa)
email: lisap@goia.wa.gov

Heather Peters, Office Assistant
email: heatherp@goia.wa.gov

Wellness

Native Women: Free Health Kits Available

OLYMPIA – Many women in Washington do not have access to health services and do not receive the health care they need.

To reverse this trend, the Washington Breast & Cervical Health Program (WBCHP) and its partners are offering free information kits about breast health to women with a high risk of breast and cervical cancer.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death and the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women in our state.

In 1999, there were 5,374 new cases of breast cancer and 747 women died of the disease in 2000.

“In most cases, early detection is the best protection against cancer,” said Dr. Maxine Hayes, Washington’s Health Officer.

To detect the disease in its early stages, women age 40 and older and those at higher risk for breast cancer should get a mammogram every one to two years as recommended by their doctors.

Physician referral appears to be an important predictor of early detection; a significant number of women who had mammograms did so because of a doctor’s recommendation.

The earlier the stage at the time of diagnosis, the better the five-year survival rate. The best opportunity for reducing

mortality is through early detection.

There is a need for increasing the use of screening services, particularly among the low-income, older, lesbian, and racial and ethnic minority women, who are currently less likely to be screened.

A number of factors contribute to lower rates of breast cancer screening among these populations.

These include difficulties in accessing screening services, such as transportation, and language and cultural barriers, lack of education regarding the benefits of screening, excessive fear of cancer and lack of

funds to pay for screening services.

The Washington Department of Health web site has more information on breast health at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/wbchp/default.htm>.

Women can also order free health information kits by calling 1-888-438-2247.

The Department of Health has been working with the state Department of Social and Health Services, the Puget Sound affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Partners for a Healthier Community, Community Health Plan of Washington and Qualis Health.

Johnston Appointed Director of AIHC

In February, Marilyn Scott, chair of the Upper Skagit Tribe and chair of the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) announced the appointment of Rebecca Donovan Johnston as the commission’s first director.

Ms. Johnston has nearly a decade of experience as an advocate for tribal governments. She has worked as a legislative assistant for U.S. Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND) on Indian Affairs Committee issues, as a legislative specialist at a Washington, D.C. law firm specializing in American Indian/Alaska Native issues, and as a legislative associate at the National Congress of American Indians

(NCAI).

Most recently, Ms. Johnston served as a Seattle-based government affairs consultant to NCAI and several tribes on various matters including the federal budget, technology, transportation and health care issues.

The AIHC was created in 1994 by tribes and urban Indian health programs to provide a forum for tribal-state health issues.

A largely volunteer effort, its purpose is to seek unity and to guide the collective needs of tribal governments in providing high quality and comprehensive health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives in this state.

Education

First People's Language Program Achieves Milestone

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Board of Education unanimously adopted a rule in January aimed at preserving the language and culture of the state's Native American tribes.

The rule establishes a pilot program through which each sovereign tribal government will be able to appoint and certify individuals who meet the tribe's criteria for certification as instructors in Washington State First Peoples' Language/Culture.

Tribal members from across Washington attended the board's public hearing to share their views of the importance of the rule.

"This is a time when a student having gone through learning only part of their culture will have the opportunity to be whole and fully aware of their native language (and) culture," said Pauline Hillaire, an elder from the Lummi Tribe.

The Washington State First Peoples' Language/Culture teacher certification pilot program began in February and will continue through the 2005-06 school year.

At the end of the 2005-06 school year, the program will be extended, modified or made permanent, as determined by the State Board of Education in consultation with the participating sovereign tribal governments.

Any sovereign tribal government in the state of Washington is eligible to participate individually on a government-to-government basis in the pilot program.

The Board's actions recognize that:

- Native American languages are falling silent, a loss to the cultural heritage of the affected tribes and to the cultural resources of Washington State.
- Teaching Native languages can be a critical factor in successful educational experiences and promoting cultural sensitivity for all students.
- There are many sovereign tribal nations in the state of Washington, and the heritage of these nations comprises unique languages, cultures and world views.

- It is within the statutory authority of the State Board of Education to enhance the learning opportunities for all students by helping prevent the loss of tribal languages through assisting the state's sovereign nations to sustain, maintain or recover their linguistic heritage, history and culture.

"This is indeed a historic moment," said State Board President Bobbie May. "All the members of the State Board of Education are excited and pleased to have the opportunity to be part of this very important decision."

Gov. Locke Launches Annual Summer Reading Challenge

OLYMPIA — Citing education as his top priority, Gov. Gary Locke kicked off the 2003 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge on May 27.

Locke started the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge last year to encourage Washington students to continue reading during summer vacation and add to the reading gains they made during the school year.

The theme of this year's Governor's Summer Reading Challenge is "Take Your Reading to New Heights."

The governor is urging all students under the age of 18 to read 15 hours or more before Labor Day (Sept. 1) and report their success to him via email or letter.

Each student who meets the challenge will receive a signed certificate from the governor and become eligible for a drawing for a trip for four to Disneyland, courtesy of Disneyland and Alaska Airlines.

Students can report their summer reading adventures to the governor by logging on to www.governor.wa.gov/summerreadingchallenge/default.asp, or submitting the hours via snail-mail to: The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, P.O. Box 40002, Olympia, Wash., 98504-0002.

Statewide Tribal Education Summit A Success

Tribes Discuss Priorities with Gov. Locke and Supt. Bergeson

Vowing to work together to help eliminate the achievement gap for Native American students, tribal leaders, Native American educators, students and state agency representatives participated in the Washington State Tribal Education Summit, March 26-28, at the Quinault Beach Resort.

Organized by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the summit focused on the top educational priorities that were identified in a statewide survey of tribal leaders and educators last fall.

Those priorities include the high truancy and drop-out/push-out rates among Native students, low self-esteem issues for tribal youth and alcohol and substance abuse by students and their families.

"Native American children face some of the biggest challenges in education," said Andrea Alexander, GOIA deputy director and a Makah tribal member. "This was an opportunity for tribal leaders and policy makers to address those obstacles and work toward better educational outcomes for Indian youth."

During the summit, tribal leaders held roundtable government-to-government discussions with Gov. Gary Locke and state schools Superintendent Terry Bergeson about their concerns in education.

Locke encouraged tribal leaders to use technology to create and distribute culturally-relevant curriculum for schools.

Bergeson told the attendees that she is committed to do whatever she can with tribal sovereign governments to improve education.

"Kids are struggling, and we are committed to reaching every single child so they can reach their full potential," she said. "...We need to quit talking about the achievement gap. We need to tackle the problem, get rid of it, and make our kids ready for the 21st century."

At the end of the summit, participants outlined action steps to follow up on, including: developing partnerships between tribes and school districts, encouraging tribal community and parental involvement in education and communicating tribal positions on education policy to school districts and state leaders.

OSPI is coordinating a workgroup to create a formal action plan.

GOIA is preparing a report on the summit. To obtain a copy, call 360-753-2411.

The conference was sponsored by donations from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Skokomish Tribe, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe and Washington Mutual, Wells Fargo and Pearson Education.

Quileute Tribe Hosts Family Healing Gathering

OLYMPIA – Understanding family strengths, resources and concerns in the Native American and Latino communities was the focus of the "Peninsula Family Healing Gathering," held May 19-20 at the Ak-A-Lat Community Center in LaPush.

The Olympic Peninsula's Quileute Tribe hosted the event, which was sponsored by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and local communities.

Traditional meals, music, storytelling, craftwork, and various cultural ceremonies honored those who serve children and families.

Elders shared their stories and traditions with the youth to ensure that future generations will preserve the historical perspectives of their

culture. Recognized leaders from the Latino and Native American communities were available for individual and family consultations.

Foster home licensors were also available to answer questions about the licensing process and recruit new foster homes. Through a collective willingness to share with others through traditional celebrations and festivities, the gathering was designed to further address many issues involved in working together for the children and families whose world views, paradigms, and collective cultural experiences are so vividly varied.

DSHS is planning to produce a video documentary of the gathering to use as a training tool and to recruit additional resources to serve these children and families.

Agreement in Yakama Water Rights Case

YAKIMA – A major irrigation purveyor in the Lower Yakima Valley agreed to divert less water from the Yakima River in May to settle its claims in the long-running Department of Ecology vs. Acquavella water-rights adjudication case.

The water rights are subject to approval by Yakima County Superior Court Judge Walter Stauffacher.

Under the settlement, the Sunnyside Division Board of Control and its members would receive an annual confirmed water right of 435,422 acre-feet.

Parties to the agreement include the Sunnyside Division, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Yakama Nation.

“This settlement represents a major step forward in the 25-year-old Yakima adjudication, both in terms of water-rights and conservation efforts. It is a credit to all those participating in negotiations,” said Tom Fitzsimmons, director of Ecology. “Money that would have been spent on arguing can be spent on making sure there’s ample water for all of our needs.”

In the agreement, the Sunnyside Division waives its claim to some 23,098 acre-feet of irrigation water.

The reduced demand on basin water supplies will allow Reclamation to better serve Yakima Project irrigators while improving conditions for fish.

Ross Sockzehigh, chairman

of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council, said, “This agreement removes a major impediment to implementing water conservation under the Enhancement Act, which the Yakama Nation helped draft and get through Congress nine years ago. It guarantees that Sunnyside will help provide more water in the lower Yakima River to help support the fishery we share with the citizens of the region under our treaty with the United States.”

By 2016, the Sunnyside Division will implement water conservation projects to achieve a total savings of 29,162 acre-feet per year, resulting in an annual water right of 415,972 acre-feet.

One-third of the conserved water will be reserved for the Sunnyside Division, while two-

thirds will augment Yakima River stream flows.

As part of a water conservation plan, the division will construct three “re-regulating” reservoirs and will automate the Sunnyside Canal.

Sixty-five percent of the funds will come from the federal government, while the Sunnyside Division and Ecology will evenly split the balance.

The federal government has committed \$21 million for the improvements, and the state approximately \$6 million.

In the future, the parties also have set a goal to work cooperatively to implement a second phase of water-saving projects, with the goal of reducing diversions by an additional 16,500 acre-feet per year.

Wash. Transportation Commission Adopts Tribal Consultation Policy

OLYMPIA – In February, the Washington State Transportation Commission formally put in place a process for government-to-government relationships with the state’s 29 federally recognized tribes by giving unanimous approval of the Department of Transportation’s tribal consultation policy.

The policy affects tribes that have ancestral homelands within the state boundaries, including those having reservations located outside of the state, on all decisions that may affect tribal rights and interests.

The consultation policy is a

commitment by the Department of Transportation to work with the tribes to establish respectful, effective communication in a cooperative process that works toward a consensus, before a decision is made or an action is taken.

“This is a significant step toward strengthening the Department’s relationships with tribal communities in Washington State,” said Colleen Jollie, tribal liaison for the Department of Transportation.

“It will allow us to coordinate transportation partnerships in service to all of our citizens,” she said.

Training Schedule

August 2003

Aug. 5.....Olympia
Aug. 12.....Omak

September 2003

Sept. 2Olympia
Sept. 9.....Spokane

October 2003

Oct. 7:.....Olympia
Oct. 14.....Wenatchee

*The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs offers
State Tribal Relations training twice a month.
For more information, call 360-753-2411.*

Emergency TANF Meeting

Attention all Washington State Tribal Leaders, Tribal TANF Directors and Tribal Human Services Directors: The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Department of Social and Health Services are convening an urgent tribal work session to discuss a recent policy interpretation about Washington State Tribal TANF. Please join us for this meeting.

When: Monday, August 11, 1 -5 p.m.

Where: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
7327 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater
Registration/RSVP: Please RSVP by Aug. 6 to Heather Peters at 360-753-2411 or heatherp@goia.wa.gov.

For more information please contact:
Andrea Alexander at 425-673-0749 or andreaa@goia.wa.gov or Sarah Colleen Sotomish at 360-413-3118 or sotomsc@dshs.wa.gov.

Calendar of Events

August 20-22

National Intertribal Tax Alliance 5th Annual Conference
Mohegan Sun Casino
Uncasville, CT
www.ncai.org

September 8-10

2003 Tribal-State Transportation Conference
Yakima Red Lion
For more information, call Vineeta Andrews: 360-705-7022

September 15-18, 2003

ATNI Annual Conference
Pendleton, OR
For more information call: (503) 249-5770

September 16

Tribal TANF Worksession
Lacey Community Center
For more information, call Heather Peters: 360-753-2411

October 3-5

Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association
Upper Skagit

October 9

DASA Tribal Gathering
Muckleshoot Casino, Chinook Room
For more information contact Sandra Mena at 360-407-1112

November 20-21

Governor's 2003 Economic Development Conference
Seattle

Enduring Spirit Awards Announced at Annual Women's Leadership Forum and Luncheon

SEATTLE – American Indian and Alaska Native women from across the Northwest gathered in Seattle on April 24 for the second annual Native Women's Leadership Development Forum and Honoring Luncheon.

Spearheaded by Claudia Kauffman and Iris Friday, the conference was organized by the Native Action Network in collaboration with the American Indian Women's Service League.

Sponsors included Seattle Indian Services Commission, Seattle Indian Health Board, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Potlatch Fund, Alesek Institute, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation, Washington Mutual, the Port of Seattle, Vulcan Incorporated, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and the American Indian Women's Service League.

Panel presentations at the conference included: "Community Change Agents," "Stand Up, Take Charge & Make a Difference," and "Walking in Two Worlds."

The conference closed with an honoring ceremony for the young Native "daughters" who participated in the day.

In addition, four women were awarded the "Enduring Spirit" award. The women were honored for their dedication, commitment and lifelong contributions to impacting positive change in their community. Honorees were:

Ramona Bennett, Puyallup

Ramona is the founder & director of Rainbow Youth & Family Services and former chairwoman of the Puyallup tribe. Ramona has supported and empowered Native families for over 30 years.

In 1972, Ramona founded the Local Indian Child Welfare Act Committee with Jim Anderson. They established and implemented the model currently in use by Washington state. Ramona had the pleasure of presenting the model to the National Indian Organizations who used the Washington state codes for the formation of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Virginia Cross, Muckleshoot

Virginia has been a 20-year member of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribal Council. She is a consistent advocate for improving tribal educa-

tion conditions and has met with Gov. Locke and made trips to Washington, D.C. to ensure that Native children are not left behind when it comes to education. She started the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Re-Entry program that supports dropouts so they can graduate on time and constantly monitors the effectiveness and progress of the tribal education programs. Virginia continually reminds children about the importance of education while encouraging and supporting them through their schooling.

Law and Politics mentioned Ms. Cross as one of Washington's 10 Most Powerful Women. She was also named Elder of the Year by the Washington State Indian Education Association.

Joy Ketah, Blackfeet

For nearly 20 years, Joy served as teacher and director of the United Indians Headstart & ECEAP where she taught thousands of Native students to have pride in themselves and to be proud of their heritage. Today, her students are grown, but the positive influence that Joy has had on their lives remains a testament to her unwavering belief that every child is important and deserves the support, encouragement, and opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Joy continues to volunteer her time to community celebrations and cultural events and has instilled the importance of volunteerism to her daughters and granddaughter who carry on her positive example.

Marilyn Wandry, Suquamish

Marilyn is the great-great granddaughter of the last traditional chief, Wa Hal Cut. Wa Hal Cut is her Indian name and she is one of the traditional Long House dancers.

She is known for her conscientious and hard-working commitment to the Suquamish "canoe family" and elders and continually encourages others to join in and develop their skills and knowledge with the canoe & traditions of her people.

In her day job, it is Marilyn's responsibility to build and maintain relationships between the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services and the four tribes of Pierce & King County.

Eco-Devo

Newly Created “Potlatch Fund” Holds Successful Training *Fund to Inspire Giving in Indian Country, Build Tribal Leader Capacity*

Pendleton, Oregon – The Potlatch Fund held its first-ever training on June 11, 2003 at the Tamastsiht Cultural Institute on the Umatilla Confederated Tribes’ reservation thanks to the leadership of the Spirit of the Salmon Fund of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and the combined efforts of committed Native and non-Native volunteers.

This first training targeted the four Columbia River Tribes, including the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama, and Warm Springs Tribes.

The demand for this type of capacity-building training was confirmed when 150 people from the represented tribes called to sign up for the 30 spaces. As a result, the Potlatch Fund has agreed to host another training in the area. The Potlatch Fund will hold grant writing and similar training in other Northwest regions as well – operating in partnership with tribes and tribal organizations.

The Potlatch Fund is a tribally led foundation recently founded by Northwest tribal leaders as a vehicle to raise and grant funds to help support to grass-root efforts and Native leaders in Northwest Indian Country.

The term, “potlatch,” is a Chinook jargon word used by Indians of the northwestern coast of North America that means, “to give” or “a gift.” Potlatches were occasions when individuals shared their good fortunes with others by distributing gifts to members of their tribes and to neighboring tribes and giving is the way to elevate ones status in native communities.

The Potlatch Fund’s mission is to inspire and continue the tribal tradition of giving to promote economic development, natural resource protection, education, cultural preservation, civic participation, and the overall health of native people and their communities. Potlatch Fund goals are to:

- Leverage tribal dollars with individual donor, private foundation, and corporate funds;

- Establish a positive Northwest tribal giving presence for all giving tribes via press releases, newsletters and other activities in Indian Country;
- Highlight success stories in Northwest Indian Country and thereby continually educating the general public about tribes, and challenging stereotypes and counters misinformation;
- Serve as an “intermediary” between the “givers” and the “recipients” to increase the quality and quantity of money available to support important work in Northwest Native communities;
- Expand the number of “seats” at the non-Native philanthropic table so that Northwest tribes and tribal foundations are active participants in shaping how funding is distributed to their communities; and
- Provide capacity-building strategies so tribes can strengthen their ability to seek financial and technical assistance from corporation and private foundations.

“The Potlatch Fund has been created by Northwest Indian people because we have a responsibility to expand opportunities for our communities,” said Antone Minthorn, vice-president of the Potlatch Fund and former chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. “Our people face real challenges that need funding from lots of different sources. We need to develop and empower Native leadership and make the best use of our tribal resources. We need to remove barriers that are limiting contributions from private and corporate foundations. We need to encourage more effective grant making from public agencies. It is time to get beyond the talking stage. It is time for us to take action and use our combined energy, resources, and

Story continued on next page

***Continued from Page 10:* Potlatch Fund Offers Grantwriting Trainings**

cultural traditions to inspire giving among and to Northwest Indian communities.”

Potlatch Fund founders realize it will take several years to build the Potlatch Fund’s Endowment Fund and other Fund components. Therefore, Steering Committee members will initially focus on technical assistance and training in order to build capacity in Northwest Indian Country.

The June 11 grant writing training on the Umatilla reservation marks their first step.

“I am ecstatic about the success of our first grant writing workshop considering we have only just begun to raise dollars for the Fund,” said Andrea Alexander, deputy director of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs and president of the Potlatch Fund Steering Committee. “The staff and trainers for the first training consisted mostly of highly energetic, dedicated volunteers who passionately share the vision of the Pot-

latch Fund. Without their participation, this workshop could not have taken place. I am also grateful for the strong display of support by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians.”

The Potlatch Fund’s fiscal sponsor is the Applied Research Center (ARC) of Seattle. Within the first two years of operation, the Potlatch Fund will establish itself as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The Potlatch Fund has an active, tribally-directed leadership team that will operate as its initial board. Local philanthropic organizational leaders, including leaders from ARC, the Non-profit Assistance Center, and the Washington Health Foundation, have been actively participating in the strategic planning and development of the Potlatch Fund.

For more information, please contact Andrea Alexander, Potlatch Fund president, at 425-501-0042, or Caroline Tillier at 206-781-3840.

Northwest Tribes Share Success Stories and Ideas at Second Annual Tribal Technology Visioning Conference

The second annual Tribal Technology Visioning Conference was held May 7-9 at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores.

The focus of the conference was “Vision in Action” – a natural follow up to last year’s theme of “Bridging the Digital Divide.”

Attendees included tribal leaders, tribal technology staff, urban Indian organizational staff, tribal staff from culture, education, communications, economic development and natural resource departments, state agency staff and directors, foundation representatives and state and federal elected officials.

The conference featured the Makah Tribe’s web portal demonstration as one of the major outcomes of the year-old Tribal Technologies project developed by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corp. (ATNI-EDC). The project helps tribes assess their technological needs (and gaps) so they can plan and implement technological systems to address the economic development, health care, environmental, and educational needs of their communities.

Other highlights of the conference included a video conference with U.S. Senators Patty

Murray, Maria Cantwell, and Ron Wyden. There were also presentations by technology experts with six panelist tracks on tele-health, culture, education, geographical information systems, tribal communications and other portal demonstrations.

The conference wrapped up with eight tribes sharing their own technology success stories.

Conference sponsors included the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development, the University of Washington’s Tribal Connections Project, Colville Tribal Enterprise Corp., Tulalip Tribes, NoaNet, Verizon Avenue, the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino and Microsoft.

*Get an updated version of the
2003 Washington State Tribal
Directory at:
www.goia.wa.gov*

Gov. Locke Pledges Continued Support for Small and Minority-Owned Businesses at State-Sponsored Diversity Symposium

SEATTLE — Gov. Gary Locke told small and minority-owned business owners that he is committed to helping them further succeed in Washington state.

Locke delivered the opening remarks at the Washington State Diversity Business Symposium, June 30, at North Seattle Community College.

"I am committed to small businesses," Locke said. "It's extremely important that our state offer opportunities for small businesses.

"I am also committed to diversity. The strength of our state and our nation comes from our diversity of people, cultures and religions. It's also extremely important that our state offer equal opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses."

The Governor's Office and the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) cosponsored the symposium, along with Washington State's Commission on Asian/Pacific American Affairs, Commission on African American Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the state Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.

The City of Seattle was also represented at the event.

The goal of the symposium was to provide information and opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses regarding contracting with state and local governments.

About 150 small and minority business owners attended the

event.

The symposium educated the small and minority-owned business community about the state contract procurement process and how to learn of procurement opportunities.

It also provided an opportunity for procurement officers from many state and local agencies to meet small and minority business owners and discuss their procurement processes, practices and opportunities.

In addition, business owners learned about various sources of capital, such as the Linked Deposit Program, that may help them grow and reach a critical minimum size for state and local procurement opportunities.

They also learned about technical assistance available from the federal, state and local governments.

A luncheon panel discussed issues facing small and minority-owned businesses in Washington state.

The state's record of procurement to minority and women-owned businesses has declined in recent years, falling from 7.2 percent in 1998 to 1.5 percent in 2002.

"Given the alarming trend, it's clear that we need to take action to increase minority and women-owned business contracts with the state," Locke told the business owners. "We want to see the trend reversed. We want to see an increase in the number of minority and women-owned businesses certified. We want to see more of you contacted by state

agencies as procurement opportunities arise."

Several legislators participated in the symposium, including Rep. Eric Pettigrew, D-Seattle; Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, D-Seattle; Rep. Velma Veloria, D-Seattle; and Rep. John McCoy, D-Marysville.

Also attending were Martha Choe, director of CTED; Wendy Holden, deputy director of CTED; Conrad Lee, Region X administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration; and Jill Nishi, director of the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development.

Kiga to Leave for the Private Sector

OLYMPIA — On July 8, Gov. Gary Locke announced that his chief of staff, Fred Kiga, is leaving his position to accept a job with the Frank Russell Co., effective Aug. 18.

"I appreciate Fred's service during a very challenging time in state government," Locke said. "Fred was instrumental in organizing the work groups that developed our Priorities Of Government budget strategy, the no-general-tax-increase budget and the Boeing 7E7 team."

Kiga has served as the governor's chief of staff since November 2001. Prior to that, he served for four years as director of the state Department of Revenue.

Lyn Dennis Presents NorthWest Native News

New Inter-Tribal Program to “Educate, Inform and Inspire”

Note: This story was written by Lita Sheldon, and published in the “Tulalip See-Yaht-Sub.”

The Tulalip Tribes Communications Department, working with KVOS-TV12 in Bellingham and with other video producers, has created a 24-minute video news program entitled “NorthWest Indian News” (NWIN).

The program premiered at the mid-year conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) in Bellingham on May 21. It featured stories on:

- Swinomish Update
- Nisqually Salmon Habitat
- Makah Whaling
- Marysville Tulalip Chamber of Commerce
- Yakama Water Rights
- Squaxin Island Museum
- N.I.T.A. Web Launch
- Vi Hilbert
- Cheech One-Road

Lyn Dennis, former editor of the Lummi newspaper, the Squol Quol, hosted the program from the Swinomish Reservation.

The reporters were Niki Cleary, Tulalip; Sherry Guydelkon, Tulalip; Ronnie Washines, Yakama; and Frank Dunn, Cherokee.

The mission of NWIN is “to produce a news service that focuses on stories important to Northwest Indians. Through the use of broadcast and cable television and the Internet – NWIN will educate, inform and inspire its viewers and

readers.”

The Tulalip Tribes Communications Department launched and funded the first program, and is currently seeking support from other tribes to continue reporting the news.

The people responsible for producing the first program were:

- Lyn Dennis – NWIN anchor and producer. Lyn has over 10 years of experience in the media and entertainment industry. She is a member of the Lummi Tribe and Tahltan Band in British Columbia.

- Lita Sheldon – communications manager of the Tulalip Tribes. A member of the Tulalip Tribes, Lita oversees the publication of the Tulalip Tribal newspaper, “Tulalip See-Yaht-Sub.”

- Bev Hauptli – Bev is a video producer/writer who has worked with the Tulalip Communications Dept. since 1989. A former television anchor/reporter, Bev has 20 years of broadcast experience.

- Jim Browder – Jim is a KVOS-TV producer and director with 25 years of television and film experience. He has taught video production at Northwest Indian College.

Copies of the program are available at the Communications Department. Please call Jean Henrikson at 360-651-3332 to request a copy.

For more information about NWIN, please contact Lita Sheldon at 360-651-4330, or Lyn Dennis at 360-785-7514.

The Talking Stick

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
1210 Eastside
Olympia, WA 98504-0909